

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-35. (Canceled).

36. (Previously Presented) Stiff packet with a hinged lid for cigarettes, wherein said packet comprises a containing body closed at the top by a lid hinged on the containing body and said lid is rotationally movable between a closed position and an open position, and wherein said packet is delimited by a wall arrangement comprising a substantially flat front wall, a substantially flat rear wall and a pair of shaped side walls that protrudes towards the exterior of said container, each shaped side wall being connected to said front wall along a first edge, and to said rear wall along a second edge, each shaped side wall comprising an outer shaped panel attached to an inner shaped panel, wherein said packet comprises a stiffening element arranged to stiffen said shaped side walls, wherein said stiffening element comprises a substantially flat stiffening wall extending from said first edge to said second edge, said stiffening element being spaced from the corresponding shaped side wall and having a length the same as a longitudinal dimension of said shaped side wall, said length and said longitudinal dimension being measured parallel to said first edge, such that said front wall, said rear wall and said stiffening walls define an empty parallelepiped space which corresponds to the shape of a composition of cigarettes to be introduced inside the packet and said packet further comprises a gap between each shaped side wall and its corresponding stiffening wall.

Claims 37-39. (Canceled).

40. (Previously Presented) Packet according to claim 36, and furthermore comprising an anchoring element arranged to anchor said stiffening wall to supporting wall adjacent to said shaped side wall.

41. (Previously Presented) Packet according to claim 40, wherein said anchoring element comprises an anchoring wall adjacent to said shaped side wall.

42. (Previously Presented) Packet according to claim 41, wherein said anchoring wall has a longitudinal extent measured parallel to said first edge substantially the same as said length of said stiffening wall.

43. (Previously Presented) Packet according to claim 41, wherein said anchoring wall has a substantially flat shape and is fixed to a flat portion of said supporting wall.

44. (Previously Presented) Packet according to claim 41, wherein said anchoring wall is glued to said supporting wall.

45. (Previously Presented) Packet according to claim 41, wherein said anchoring wall is rotated by approximately 90° in relation to said stiffening wall.

46. (Previously Presented) Packet according to claim 71, wherein each shaped side wall comprises a convex wall.

47. (Previously Presented) Packet according to claim 71, wherein said convex portion comprises a portion of cylindrical surface.

48. (Previously Presented) Packet according to claim 47, wherein said portion of cylindrical surface comprises a semicylindrical surface that extends around an axis substantially passing through said stiffening wall.

49. (Previously Presented) Packet according to claim 36, wherein each shaped side wall comprises a first flat wall and a second flat wall that intersect each other along a common edge.

50. (Previously Presented) Packet according to claim 71, wherein said shaped side wall comprises a substantially flat intermediate portion and convex peripheral portions.

Claims 51-53. (Canceled).

54. (Currently Amended) Foldable blank for forming a hinged-lid packet of cigarettes, the hinged-lid packet being delimited by a wall arrangement comprising a front wall, a rear wall, a pair of shaped side walls, a top wall and a bottom wall, the blank comprising a first greater panel, a second greater panel, external panels provided at opposite sides of said second

greater panel, a longitudinal panel and a further longitudinal panel respectively arranged on opposite sides of said first greater panel parallel to said first greater panel, a pair of longitudinal strips each having a longitudinal side in common respectively with said longitudinal panel or with said further longitudinal panel, wherein said longitudinal panel and said further longitudinal panel are each subdivided into a first zone having a side in common with said first greater panel and a second zone having a side in common with the corresponding longitudinal strip, a first longitudinal crease separating said first zone from said second zone, a second longitudinal crease separating said longitudinal strip from said second zone, wherein each of said first zone and said second zone has a transverse extent measured perpendicular to a longitudinal axis along which said longitudinal panel extends, and wherein said first greater panel is interposed between a first transverse panel and a second transverse panel lying on opposite sides of said first greater panel along said longitudinal axis, said first greater panel, said first transverse panel, and said second transverse panel being arranged to form in the packet, respectively, ~~on~~ said rear wall, said bottom wall and said top wall, each of said panels being superimposed in the packet on the respective first zones of said longitudinal panel and said further longitudinal panel to form said shaped side walls, and wherein said first transverse panel and said second transverse panel extend parallel to said longitudinal axis by a quantity substantially corresponding to said extent of said second zone.

55. (Previously Amended) Foldable blank according to claim 54, wherein said transverse extent of said first zone has greater than said transverse extent of said second zone.

Claims 56-58. (Canceled)

59. (Previously Amended) Foldable blank according to claim 54, wherein said first zone extends parallel to said first longitudinal crease for a length substantially the same as the length of said first greater panel along said first longitudinal crease.

60. (Previously Amended) Foldable blank according to claim 54, wherein said second longitudinal crease is substantially parallel to said first longitudinal crease.

61. (Previously Amended) Foldable blank according to claim 60, wherein said longitudinal strip has a longitudinal extent measured parallel to said second longitudinal crease substantially equal to said length of said second zone.

62. (Previously Amended) Foldable blank according to claim 54, wherein said longitudinal strip is trapezium-shaped, said second longitudinal crease defining a larger base of said trapezium.

63. (Previously Amended) Foldable blank according to claim 54, wherein said first zone is provided with a cutting line that extends through said first zone in a tilted direction in relation to said first longitudinal crease.

64. (Previously Amended) Foldable blank according to claim 63, wherein said second zone is provided with a further cutting line that extends through said second zone in a direction

tilted in a specular manner in relation to said cutting line with respect to said first longitudinal crease.

65. (Previously Amended) Foldable blank according to claim 64, wherein said cutting line and said further cutting line are provided with joints.

66. (Previously Amended) Foldable blank according to claim 54, wherein said first zone is provided with a plurality of creases parallel to one another arranged to give said first zone a certain yieldability, such that said first zone may take on a concave configuration when folded.

67. (Previously Presented) Foldable blank according to claim 66, wherein said first zone is provided with a first bundle of multiple creases and a second bundle of multiple creases arranged at the borders of a central region without creases.

Claims 68-70. (Canceled).

71. (Previously Presented) Packet according to claim 36, wherein each shaped side wall comprises at least a convex portion.

72. (Canceled).

73. (Currently Amended) Container delimited by a wall arrangement comprising a front wall, a rear wall and a pair of side walls, each side wall being connected to said front wall along a first edgefold line, and to said rear wall along a second edgefold line, each side wall comprising an outer panel attached to an inner panel, said container further comprising a stiffening element ~~arranged to stiffen~~ for each of said side walls, wherein each said stiffening element comprises a substantially flat stiffening wall spaced from the corresponding side wall, each said stiffening wall having a first end positioned at the first edgefold line and a second end positioned at the second edgefold line.

74. (Currently Amended) Container according to claim 73, wherein each said stiffening wall has a length the same as a longitudinal dimension of said side wall, said length and said longitudinal dimension being measured parallel to said first edgefold line.

75. (Previously Presented) Container according to claim 73, further comprising a lid hinged to the rear wall.

76. (Currently Amended) Container according to claim 73, further comprising an empty parallelepiped space, for contents of the container, defined by the front wall, rear wall and said stiffening elements.

77. (Currently Amended) Container according to claim 76, further comprising a gap between each side wall and the stiffening element, ~~the~~ each said gap being substantially symmetrical about a horizontal plane extending from one said gap to another said gap.

78. (Currently Amended) Container according to claim 76, wherein the first and second ~~edges~~ fold lines correspond to the lateral extremes of the empty space.